

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-4 (canceled)

Claim 5 (currently amended): An absorbent article having a front portion, a back portion and two side portions, the article comprising: a main chassis; an absorbent portion; and an elastic portion operatively associated with the main chassis, wherein the elastic portion ~~has a larger area in the front portion and the back portion than it does in either of the side portions~~ comprises a first elastic portion in the front portion, a second elastic portion in the back portion, and associated side portions for the first and the second elastic portions, the first elastic portion having a larger area in the front portion than in either of the associated side portions, and the second elastic portion having a larger area in the back portion than in either of the associated side portions.

Claim 6 (original): The article of claim 5, wherein the elastic portion has a first region that overlaps the main chassis and a second region that does not overlap the main chassis.

Claim 7 (original): The article of claim 6, wherein the first region has an area that is smaller than an area of the second region.

Claim 8 (original): The article of claim 7, wherein the area of the first region is less than ten percent of a total area of the elastic portion.

Claim 9 (original): The article of claim 8, wherein the area of the second region is substantially equal to the total area of the elastic portion.

Claim 10 (canceled)

Claim 11 (currently amended): The article of claim 5 ~~claim 10~~, wherein the first elastic

portion has a front elastic portion corresponding to the front portion of the article and two first side elastic portions corresponding to the side portions of the article, and the second elastic portion has a back elastic portion corresponding to the back portion of the article and two second side elastic portions corresponding to the side portions of the article.

Claim 12 (original): The article of claim 11, wherein the front elastic portion has a depth measured from a waist edge of the article toward a crotch portion of the article, the first side elastic portions have a depth measured from the waist edge of the article toward the crotch portion of the article, and the depth of the front elastic portion is greater than the depth of the first side elastic portions.

Claim 13 (original): The article of claim 12, wherein the back elastic portion has a depth measured from the waist edge of the article toward the crotch portion of the article, the second side elastic portions have a depth measured from the waist edge of the article toward the crotch portion of the article, and the depth of the back elastic portion is greater than the depth of the second side elastic portions.

Claim 14 (original): The article of claim 13, wherein the depth of the front elastic portion substantially equals the depth of the back elastic portion.

Claim 15 (original): The article of claim 11, wherein the back elastic portion has a depth measured from a waist edge of the article toward a crotch portion of the article, the second side elastic portions have a depth measured from the waist edge of the article toward the crotch portion of the article, and the depth of the back elastic portion is greater than the depth of the second side elastic portions.

Claim 16 (currently amended): The article of claim 5 ~~claim 10~~, wherein the side portions are inelastic.

Claim 17 (original): The article of claim 16, wherein the first elastic portion contacts the second elastic portion.

Claim 18 (original): The article of claim 17, wherein the first elastic portion contacts the second elastic portion at a crotch portion of the article.

Claim 19 (original): The article of claim 18, wherein the first and second elastic portions are triangular in shape.

Claim 20 (currently amended): The article of claim 5 ~~claim 10~~, wherein the first and second elastic portions are triangular in shape.

Claim 21 (currently amended): The article of claim 5 ~~claim 10~~, wherein the first and second elastic portions have different areas.

Claim 22 (currently amended): The article of claim 5 ~~claim 10~~, wherein the first and second elastic portions are one of oval and circular in shape.

Claim 23 (currently amended): The article of claim 5 ~~claim 10~~, wherein the first and second elastic portions are diamond shaped.

Claim 24 (currently amended): The article of claim 5 ~~claim 10~~, wherein the first and second elastic portions are rectangular.

Claim 25 (currently amended): The article of claim 5 ~~claim 10~~, wherein the article is a diaper.

Claim 26 (currently amended): The article of claim 5 ~~claim 10~~, wherein the article is a pant.

Claim 27 (withdrawn): A method of making an absorbent article having a front portion, a back portion, two side portions, a main chassis, an absorbent portion, a first elastic portion operatively associated with the main chassis, and a second elastic portion

operatively associated with the main chassis, the elastic portions having a larger area in one of the front portion and the back portion than in either of the side portions, the method comprising: moving the main chassis in a machine direction; applying the first elastic portion to the main chassis; and applying the second elastic portion to the main chassis, wherein the elastic portions are shaped such that the elastic portions can be formed from a single ribbon of material with substantially no waste.

Claim 28 (withdrawn): The method of claim 27, wherein one of the first elastic portion and the second elastic portion has a first region that overlaps the main chassis and a second region that does not overlap the main chassis.

Claim 29 (withdrawn): The method of claim 28, wherein the first region has an area that is smaller than an area of the second region.

Claim 30 (withdrawn): The method of claim 29, wherein the area of the first region is less than ten percent of a total area of the elastic portion.

Claim 31 (withdrawn): The method of claim 30, wherein the area of the second region is substantially equal to the total area of the elastic portion.

Claim 32 (withdrawn): The method of claim 27, wherein the first elastic portion has a larger area in the front portion than it does in either of the side portions, and the second elastic portion has a larger area in the back portion than it does in either of the side portions.

Claim 33 (withdrawn): The method of claim 32, wherein the first elastic portion has a front elastic portion corresponding to the front portion of the article and two first side elastic portions corresponding to the side portions of the article, and the second elastic portion has a back elastic portion corresponding to the back portion of the article and two second side elastic portions corresponding to the side portions of the article.

Claim 34 (withdrawn): The method of claim 33, wherein the front elastic portion has a depth measured from a waist edge of the article toward a crotch portion of the article, the first side elastic portions have a depth measured from the waist edge of the article toward the crotch portion of the article, and the depth of the front elastic portion is greater than the depth of the first side elastic portions.

Claim 35 (withdrawn): The method of claim 34, wherein the back elastic portion has a depth measured from the waist edge of the article toward the crotch portion of the article, the second side elastic portions have a depth measured from the waist edge of the article toward the crotch portion of the article, and the depth of the back elastic portion is greater than the depth of the second side elastic portions.

Claim 36 (withdrawn): The method of claim 35, wherein the depth of the front elastic portion substantially equals the depth of the back elastic portion.

Claim 37 (withdrawn): The method of claim 33, wherein the back elastic portion has a depth measured from a waist edge of the article toward a crotch portion of the article, the second side elastic portions have a depth measured from the waist edge of the article toward the crotch portion of the article, and the depth of the back elastic portion is greater than the depth of the second side elastic portions.

Claim 38 (withdrawn): The method of claim 32, wherein the side portions are inelastic.

Claim 39 (withdrawn): The method of claim 38, wherein the first elastic portion contacts the second elastic portion.

Claim 40 (withdrawn): The method of claim 39, wherein the first elastic portion contacts the second elastic portion at a crotch portion of the article.

Claim 41 (withdrawn): The method of claim 40, wherein the first and second elastic portions are triangular in shape.

Claim 42 (withdrawn): The method of claim 32, wherein the first and second elastic portions are triangular in shape.

Claim 43 (withdrawn): The method of claim 32, wherein the first and second elastic portions have different areas.

Claim 44 (withdrawn): The method of claim 32, wherein the first and second elastic portions are one of oval and circular in shape.

Claim 45 (withdrawn): The method of claim 32, wherein the first and second elastic portions are diamond shaped.

Claim 46 (withdrawn): The method of claim 32, wherein the first and second elastic portions are rectangular.

Claim 47 (withdrawn): The method of claim 32, wherein the article is a diaper.

Claim 48 (withdrawn): The method of claim 32, wherein the article is a pant.

Claim 49 (withdrawn): A method of supplying first and second elastic portions for making an absorbent article having a front portion, a back portion, two side portions, a main chassis, an absorbent portion, the first elastic portion operatively associated with the main chassis, and the second elastic portion operatively associated with the main chassis, the elastic portions having a larger area in one of the front portion and the back portion than in either of the side portions, the method comprising: forming the elastic portions from a single ribbon of material with substantially no waste; re-indexing the elastic portions relative to each other; and transporting the elastic portions to an assembly position of the article.

Claim 50 (withdrawn): The method of claim 49, wherein one of the first elastic portion

and the second elastic portion has a first region that overlaps the main chassis and a second region that does not overlap the main chassis.

Claim 51 (withdrawn): The article of claim 50, wherein the first region has an area that is smaller than an area of the second region.

Claim 52 (withdrawn): The article of claim 51, wherein the area of the first region is less than ten percent of a total area of the elastic portion.

Claim 53 (withdrawn): The article of claim 52, wherein the area of the second region is substantially equal to the total area of the elastic portion.

Claim 54 (currently amended): The absorbent article of claim 5, wherein the ~~elastic portion~~ article comprises a first carrier layer operatively associated with the elastic member ~~the subassembly of claim 1.~~

Claim 55 (currently amended): The absorbent article of claim 5, wherein a longitudinal dimension of the first or second elastic portion along the longitudinal direction is a first distance, a longitudinal dimension each of the associated side portions along the longitudinal direction is a second distance, and the first distance is less than twice the second distance ~~the elastic portion comprises the subassembly of claim 2.~~

Claim 56 (currently amended): The absorbent article of claim 5, wherein a dimension of the first or second elastic portion perpendicular to the longitudinal direction is a third distance, a dimension of each of the two side portions perpendicular to the longitudinal direction is a fourth distance, and the third distance is greater than the fourth distance ~~the elastic portion comprises the subassembly of claim 3.~~

Claim 57 (currently amended): The absorbent article of claim 5, wherein a dimension of the first or second elastic portion perpendicular to the longitudinal direction is a first distance, a dimension of each of the associated side portions perpendicular to the

longitudinal direction is a second distance, and the first distance is greater than twice the second distance ~~the elastic portion comprises the subassembly of claim 4.~~

Claim 58 (new): The absorbent article of claim 5 which includes a second carrier layer on the side of the elastic member opposite the side facing the first carrier layer.